

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended. Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 5,654,057 to *Kitayama, et al.* (“*Kitayama*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,637,353 to *Kimock, et al.* (“*Kimock*”) does not teach or suggest at least the “transparent protective layer formed on . . . an outer surface of at least one of the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein the protective layer creates a compressive stress on the outer surface of at least one of the first substrate and second substrate” features recited in newly amended independent claims 1 and 9. These features are simply absent from both references.

Kitayama shows a glass substrate manufacturing method applicable to magnetic recording disk glass substrates. The specification discloses a method for flattening a glass substrate which includes forming a film of a solution on the surface of a sheet of glass using a down-drawn method. The specification also discloses a method for chemically strengthening a glass substrate wherein a glass substrate is immersed in a chemical reinforcement solution, heated, ions between the solution and the surface of the glass substrate are exchanged, the glass substrate is removed from the reinforcement solution and annealed to a temperature higher than the crystallization temperature of a molten salt, and finally the glass substrate is cleaned with a cleaning agent containing acid. See *Kitayama* at col. 5, lines 12-22 and 39-50.

Kimock shows a substantially optical transparent substrate with one or more chemically vapor-deposited interlayer(s) bonded to the glass substrate, and a chemically vapor-deposited outer layer made of optically transparent, hard, and low friction material bonded to the interlayer and away from the glass substrate. See the Abstract of *Kimock*.

Neither the *Kitayama* nor the *Kimock* reference teaches or suggests a “transparent protective layer formed on . . . an outer surface . . . wherein the protective layer creates a compressive stress on the outer surface of at least one of the first substrate and second substrate.” The transparent protective layer of the present invention creates the compressive stress on the outer surface of the glass substrate adjacent to it by being formed, in tension, on the outer surface of the glass substrate. The combination of cited references does not teach or suggest these features. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims put the application in form for allowance.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 5,260,157 to *Mizuta, et al.* (“*Mizuta*”) does not make up for the deficiencies of either *Kitayama* or *Kimock*. *Mizuta* is cited only to show a thermosetting silicone resin that allegedly has a low viscosity such as tetraalkoxysilane. These features do not make up for the deficiencies above-mentioned. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment which is being made to place the application in better condition for examination. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, 6-9, 11, and 13-16 are pending for examination.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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